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THE SITUATION IN CENTRAL AMERICA:
PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FIRM AND LASTING PEACE AND PROGRESS IN FASHIONING A REGION OF PEACE, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 23 August 1994 from the representatives of Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from our respective Governments, we have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration of Guácimo adopted on 20 August 1994 by the Presidents of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama and by the Prime Minister of Belize as an observer.

We should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 42 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

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Chargé d'affaires a.i.
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(Signed) Ricardo CASTANEDA-CORNEJO
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* A/49/150.

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ANNEX

Declaration of Guácimo adopted on 20 August 1994 in Guácimo, Costa Rica, by the Central American Presidents and by the Prime Minister of Belize as an observer

Central America has changed. In the short time that has elapsed since the Esquipulas I agreement, Central Americans have almost completely succeeded in containing the political violence that had ravaged several countries in the region; democracies have been established and transformed; respect for human rights has been strengthened, and a new system of regional integration has been defined.

Today, with a broad feeling of community and in a rigorous spirit of regional solidarity, we confirm our democratic and integrationist mission, and therefore reaffirm our commitment to continued efforts to strengthen even further our democratic processes and advance the peace processes, thus ensuring the rule of law; this can make possible a political setting that can create the conditions for a higher level of well-being for the Central American population.

This new course is reflected in respect for the inherent dignity of all people and the promotion of their rights, as well as respect for the natural environment that sustains human life, which means a constant improvement in the quality of life, requiring a change in attitude and behaviour with regard to our patterns of production and consumption. This choice has been concretized in a national and regional strategy which we call the Alliance for Sustainable Development, an integral Central American initiative in the political, moral, economic, social and ecological fields; we have translated it into a programme of immediate action, hoping thereby to set an example for other regions.

We Central Americans are convinced that only cooperation, tolerance, transparency and justice can make democracy sustainable. Accordingly, we will pursue our efforts to refine and strengthen democratic institutions, so as to guarantee fundamental freedoms and the creative participation of civil society in the management of development which can incorporate sectors traditionally excluded from its benefits.

We are returning to the path first laid out at the Tegucigalpa summit, one leading to the human development of Central American society from an integral perspective geared to meeting the basic needs of the population and overcoming critical poverty, thus giving the Central American integration efforts a renewed social vision based on a strategy of sustainable development which gives priority to investment in the social sphere. To this end, we have decided to organize the International Conference for Peace and Development in Central America, to be held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, on 24 and 25 October. We also

welcome with satisfaction the draft treaty on social integration submitted by the Regional Commission on Social Affairs.

We conceive of economic growth as growth with equity, without degrading natural resources, but at the same time capable of generating genuine opportunities for progress for the most vulnerable population groups in Central America. We firmly believe that establishing efficient linkages with world trade must be supported by the improvement of the quality, expertise and skills of workers, as well as the modernization of enterprises. We will move towards a type of international integration in which foreign trade negotiations are carried out jointly.

We acknowledge to the world the unique and indivisible character of the Central American natural heritage and we take responsibility for preserving it. At the same time, we trust that the world will recognize these efforts, for the benefit of current and future generations. We Central Americans are aware of the interdependence between environmental conservation and the quality of life of peoples; accordingly, we have decided to hold an environmental summit meeting in Managua on 12 and 13 October, at which we will deepen the Alliance for Sustainable Development with a view to presenting it to the world as a Central American thesis.

It is an essential task for Central America to enhance the governability of our democracies. To this end, we must strengthen the legitimacy and moral basis of our Governments. We will wage an all-out battle against corruption, abuse of power, public insecurity and impunity. We will support transparency and integrity in the handling and reporting of public affairs.

The firm commitment of our Governments to a strategy of sustainable development has led us to adopt a programme of specific action with stipulated objectives and time-limits so as to fulfil the commitments entered into at this meeting. The political, economic and social agendas adopted by the respective cabinets are annexed to this Declaration as an integral part hereof.

The agreements we have adopted at this twenty-fifth meeting, and those we will adopt at the Managua environmental summit meeting and the International Conference on Peace and Development in Central America, to be held in Tegucigalpa, constitute the new regional agenda, which will serve as a framework for action and management by national Governments and Central American integration entities, thus guaranteeing the highest degree of cohesion for our efforts.

In signing this Declaration, we wish to convey to the Government and people of Costa Rica, especially the communities of Guácimo and Siquirres, Limón and the School of Agriculture of the Wet-Tropical Region, our deepest appreciation for the attention and support which our work has received. We also agree to

hold the twenty-sixth meeting of Central American Presidents in El Salvador in the first half of 1995.

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Observer
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